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Spy's Former Wife Tells of Warning Whitworth

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SAN FRANCISCO, May 12 — The former wife of John A. Walker Jr., the man who pleaded guilty last year to leading a spy ring for the Soviet Union, said Monday that she told Jerry A. Whitworth in 1973 that she knew her husband was recruiting him as a spy.

The witness, Barbara Joy Crowley Walker, was testifying at Mr. Whitworth's espionage trial in Federal District Court. She said Mr. Whitworth told her he was hesitating because Mr. Walker "bragged too much and couldn't be trusted."

Mr. Whitworth is accused of selling secrets about Navy codes and communications systems for \$332,000 to Mr. Walker for relay to the Soviet Union from 1974 to 1983.

Remarks About Whitworth

Mrs. Walker, whose 1984 telephone call to the Federal Bureau of Investigation led to Mr. Walker's arrest in May 1985, has been granted immunity from prosecution in the case. She was divorced from John Walker in 1976.

Mrs. Walker testified that once, when Mr. Whitworth visited her in Norfolk, Va., in 1976, she told him she and her husband were getting divorced. She said he asked her if she was going to report Mr. Walker to the authorities, and that she told him she "did not want revenge."

She said she also told him that Mr. Walker had said Mr. Whitworth was a bisexual who used drugs and was involved with a very young teen-ager.

Mr. Walker has testified at Mr. Whitworth's trial that he told his Soviet contacts that the members of his spy ring were trustworthy because none of them had secrets to hide, such as being homosexual or using drugs.

Mrs. Walker said she discovered her husband's spying activity in 1968 by breaking into his desk and that he struck her when she confronted him with her knowledge a few weeks later.

Mr. Walker has testified that his former wife was an alcoholic, but on the stand she denied that she had a drinking problem until after she learned of his espionage activities.

She admitted accompanying him twice, once in 1968 and once in 1974, to leave stolen military data for his Soviet contacts.

"I wanted him to know how much I cared," she said, breaking into tears.

Mrs. Walker said she hid money paid to Mr. Walker by his Soviet contact in the lining of her coat, and later ironed the bills, which had been tightly wrapped.

She said that she tried to report her husband to the F.B.I. several times after learning that he was a spy. "But I couldn't," she said.

She said that she confided her knowledge to her brother-in-law, Arthur J.

Walker, in 1968 and that he told her that he had also been a spy while stationed in Groton, Conn.

John Walker testified that Arthur, his older brother, was not involved in spying until he recruited him in 1969.

Arthur Walker, a former Navy lieutenant commander, was convicted in a trial in Norfolk, Va., last August of stealing classified military data from the military contractors for whom he worked and passing it to John Walker. He has been sentenced to life in prison.

Mrs. Walker said she never knew until John Walker's arrest that their son, Michael, a former Navy petty officer, was part of the spy ring. Michael Walker pleaded guilty to espionage along with his father in Baltimore last October and has been sentenced to 25 years in prison. John Walker has not been sentenced.